

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 57.

Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2002

	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other ^a
Year	Number	Percent					
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>							
1999	445,078	100.0	10.3	17.8	28.2	30.8	12.9
2000	450,372	100.0	10.2	17.2	28.2	30.2	14.2
2001	472,396	100.0	9.5	16.7	27.8	30.5	15.4
2002	513,958	100.0	9.1	16.9	27.9	30.2	16.0
<i>Workers</i>							
1992	487,164	100.0	10.7	22.9	28.4	29.6	8.4
1993	546,532	100.0	10.4	22.7	27.6	29.8	9.5
1994	578,753	100.0	10.2	21.5	25.9	28.8	13.6
1995	547,395	100.0	10.6	20.8	25.3	29.4	13.8
1996	536,883	100.0	10.3	19.7	24.9	30.8	14.2
1997	449,439	100.0	10.7	18.6	25.8	30.6	14.2
1998	422,887	100.0	10.8	18.3	27.8	30.8	12.3
1999	418,628	100.0	10.7	17.4	29.3	30.0	12.6
2000	424,624	100.0	10.6	16.8	29.2	29.5	14.0
2001	446,591	100.0	9.9	16.3	28.8	29.8	15.2
2002	485,105	100.0	9.4	16.5	28.9	29.4	15.8
<i>Widow(er)s</i>							
1999	9,667	100.0	5.6	29.1	31.8	22.6	10.8
2000	8,940	100.0	5.3	29.0	31.3	22.4	12.1
2001	8,840	100.0	4.8	27.0	31.3	23.5	13.5
2002	9,169	100.0	5.0	24.8	32.7	24.6	12.9
<i>Adult children</i>							
1999	16,783	100.0	3.1	22.7	0.7	53.3	20.2
2000	16,808	100.0	2.8	22.8	0.7	51.9	21.7
2001	16,965	100.0	2.6	21.2	1.0	53.0	22.2
2002	19,684	100.0	2.5	21.2	0.9	53.3	22.1

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Disability Research file, 100 percent data.

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2003. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2003.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the numbers and percentages will change over time.

Applications with a medical decision may be pending a final nonmedical decision or be subsequently denied for nonmedical reasons.

Data include decisions for Social Security–only applications and applications for both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI); they do not include SSI-only claims.

Data for 1992–1998 are available for disabled workers only.

- a. Applicant has an impairment resulting from drug addiction or alcoholism, provided insufficient medical evidence, failed to cooperate, failed to follow prescribed treatment, did not want to continue development of the claim, or returned to substantial work before disability could be established. Also includes cases denied at or above the hearing level for which the basis of determination is not available.

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